APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/770,995	01/25/2001	Hong Yang	80398.P344	7543

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EXAMINER
SHANNON, MICHAEL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2614	4

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>25 January 2001</u>.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>25 January 2001</u> is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.
   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
         application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 4, line 30 refers to "transport IC 24". According to Figure 2, this should be

changed to read "demultiplexer 24".

Page 6, lines 20 and 23 refer to "transport IC 34". According to Figure 2, this

should be changed to read "demultiplexer 24".

The second full paragraph of page 6 contains a duplicate description of

EEPROM 38.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2.   The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5)

because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the

description: 1R and 34. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d),

or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in

compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid

abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should

include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if

only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled

"Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct

any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the

applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office

action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3.   The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84 for the reasons indicated

below:

   The margin sizes are not acceptable (37 CFR 1.84(g))

   Lines, numbers and letters are not uniformly think and well defined, clean,

   durable, and black (37 CFR 1.84(i))

   Numbers, Letters and Reference characters are not plain and legible (37 CFR

   1.84(p))

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the

specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37

CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the

application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures

appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being

amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the

page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing

figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified

and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to

the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5.   Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph because a claim

cannot depend upon itself. For the purposes of a prior art rejection to follow, it will be

understood that claim 10 is meant to read "The method of claim 9, wherein ... ".

6.   Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph because a claim

cannot depend upon itself. For the purposes of a prior art rejection to follow, it will be

understood that claim 14 is meant to read "The machine-readable medium of claim 13,

wherein ... ".

7.   Claims 15-24 are therefore rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph due

to the rejection of claim 14. For the purposes of a prior art rejection to follow, it will be

understood that claim 14 is meant to read "The machine-readable medium of claim 13,

wherein ... ".

8.   Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph because a claim

cannot depend upon a future claim. For the purposes of a prior art rejection to follow, it

will be understood that claim 22 is meant to read "The machine-readable medium of

claim 21, wherein ... ".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public
> use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United
> States.

10.   Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Young

et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,532,754), cited by examiner.

Young discloses a system for setting up and displaying a "background guide"

through user input. The background guide and setup screens function similarly to

the claimed upcoming program information and options menus. The rejections

below will give more specific details.

With regards to claim 1, the claimed method for displaying upcoming program

information on a monitor display screen is met as follows: The claimed step of

providing, on a display options menu, a plurality of upcoming program information

display options, at least one of the upcoming program information display options

being selected by a user, is met by the setup screen of Young depicted in Figure 25.

Column 22, lines 32-49 describe the setup of the background screen, which serves

to display upcoming program information to the user via the screen. "Setup criteria

for the background is persistent...one or all criteria may be manually changed

without terminating a session. Some criteria may be automatically changed if the

cursor or setup of the foreground guide is changed" (column 22, lines 32-49). The

step of receiving selected upcoming program information display options to specify

the upcoming program information to be displayed is met by column 22, lines 36-37,

wherein Young states that "during a session, specific setup criteria for the

background is persistent and stored in electronic memory." In other words, the

method of receiving is accomplished by storing the user input and using that to

accomplish the display of the upcoming program information. The step of displaying

the upcoming program information specified by the selected display option on the monitor display screen is met by figures 26a and 26b and column 22, line 50 – column 23, line 14, wherein Young discloses the display of the background guide based on the information gathered in the background guide setup screen.

With regards to claim 2, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed display options menu having a return feature, allowing the user to navigate back to the preferences menu, the return feature being able to be selected by the user is met by the return button on the remote control of Young (Figure 21), which serves to go back a step within a menu or process.

With regards to claim 3, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed display options menu having a help feature, allowing the user to navigate to several dependant help categories, the help feature being able to be selected by the user is met by the Help button on the remote control of Young (Figure 21), which serves to help a user, through guidance, to accomplish a task.

With regards to claim 4, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed selected upcoming program information display options being indicated by highlighting is met by the Abstract, wherein Young states, "with the cursor, the entire cell is 3-D highlighted, using a conventional offset shadow. The offset shadow is a black bar that underlines the entire cell and wraps around the right edge of the cell."

With regards to claim 5, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed display options menu being displayed in a popup window on the monitor display screen is met by column 22, lines 48-49, wherein Young discloses that the "setup screen occupies all of television screen", Young later goes on to disclose that the setup screen can be made to only occupy the same portion of the television screen as the background guide, making it a popup (column 24, lines 13-19).

With regards to claim 6, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed step of presenting a title on display, the title corresponding to an upcoming program to be shown on the same channel is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses that the upcoming listings can be scrolled based on the current channel.

With regards to claim 7, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The step of presenting a starting and ending time of the upcoming program is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses and shows a starting and ending time for each program.

With regards to claim 8, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed selected upcoming program information display options being selected from the group consisting of a source option such that the user can specify a source for which the upcoming program information is desired and a time option such that the user can specify a time period for which the upcoming program information is desired is met by column 24, lines 28-32 and lines

49-54. Young teaches that the user can specify a time period for display of upcoming information on the background guide. Young further teaches that the user can define favorite channels and define a list of channels (the source) that he/she wants displayed on the background guide.

With regards to claim 9, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed upcoming program information being displayed for a specified amount of time, the amount of time being preprogrammed by a user, such that the upcoming program information is no longer displayed after expiration of the specified amount of time is met by Young, column 22, lines 44-47, wherein he discloses that "a session is completed if the background guide has not been accessed for a certain period of time". If the session is completed, it is understood that the background guide is no longer visible after that "certain period of time".

With regards to claim 10, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1 and 9. The claimed specified amount of time being five seconds is met by the "certain period of time" discussed above in the rejection to claim 9. The fact that the claim particularly points out 5 seconds as the elapsed time for closure of the background guide is not a patentable distinction above the Young reference.

With regards to claim 11, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed upcoming program information being displayed in the bottom right hand corner of the monitor display screen is met by Figure 26A,

wherein Young shows the information being displayed in the bottom left and the bottom right of the display screen.

With regards to claim 12, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 1. The claimed upcoming program information being displayed in a rectangular shaped box on the monitor display screen is met by Figure 26A, wherein Young shows the information being displayed in a rectangular shaped box on the display screen.

With regards to claim 13, the machine-readable medium that provides instructions is met by the Young reference, wherein he discloses a CPU 228 and memory 232-240 that do all of the processing and storage within the system. The claimed step of providing, on a display options menu, a plurality of upcoming program information display options, at least one of the upcoming program information display options being selected by a user, is met by the setup screen of Young depicted in Figure 25. Column 22, lines 32-49 describe the setup of the background screen, which serves to display upcoming program information to the user via the screen. "Setup criteria for the background is persistent...one or all criteria may be manually changed without terminating a session. Some criteria may be automatically changed if the cursor or setup of the foreground guide is changed" (column 22, lines 32-49). The step of receiving selected upcoming program information display options to specify the upcoming program information to be displayed is met by column 22, lines 36-37, wherein Young states that "during a session, specific setup criteria for the background is persistent and stored in

electronic memory." In other words, the method of receiving is accomplished by storing the user input and using that to accomplish the display of the upcoming program information. The step of displaying the upcoming program information specified by the selected display option on the monitor display screen is met by figures 26a and 26b and column 22, line 50 – column 23, line 14, wherein Young discloses the display of the background guide based on the information gathered in the background guide setup screen.

With regards to claim 14, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 13. The claimed display options menu having a return feature, allowing the user to navigate back to the preferences menu, the return feature being able to be selected by the user is met by the return button on the remote control of Young (Figure 21), which serves to go back a step within a menu or process.

With regards to claim 15, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 14. The claimed display options menu having a help feature, allowing the user to navigate to several dependant help categories, the help feature being able to be selected by the user is met by the Help button on the remote control of Young (Figure 21), which serves to help a user, through guidance, to accomplish a task.

With regards to claim 16, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 14. The claimed selected upcoming program information display options being indicated by highlighting is met by the Abstract, wherein Young states, "with the cursor, the entire cell is 3-D highlighted, using a

conventional offset shadow. The offset shadow is a black bar that underlines the

entire cell and wraps around the right edge of the cell."

With regards to claim 17, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The claimed display options menu being displayed in a popup

window on the monitor display screen is met by column 22, lines 48-49, wherein

Young discloses that the "setup screen occupies all of television screen", Young

later goes on to disclose that the setup screen can be made to only occupy the

same portion of the television screen as the background guide, making it a popup

(column 24, lines 13-19).

With regards to claim 18, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The claimed step of presenting a title on display, the title

corresponding to an upcoming program to be shown on the same channel is met by

Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses that the upcoming

listings can be scrolled based on the current channel.

With regards to claim 19, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The step of presenting a starting and ending time of the

upcoming program is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young

discloses and shows a starting and ending time for each program.

With regards to claim 20, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The claimed selected upcoming program information display

options being selected from the group consisting of a source option such that the

user can specify a source for which the upcoming program information is desired

and a time option such that the user can specify a time period for which the

upcoming program information is desired is met by column 24, lines 28-32 and lines

49-54. Young teaches that the user can specify a time period for display of

upcoming information on the background guide. Young further teaches that the user

can define favorite channels and define a list of channels (the source) that he/she

wants displayed on the background guide.

With regards to claim 21, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The claimed upcoming program information being displayed for

a specified amount of time, the amount of time being preprogrammed by a user,

such that the upcoming program information is no longer displayed after expiration

of the specified amount of time is met by Young, column 22, lines 44-47, wherein he

discloses that "a session is completed if the background guide has not been

accessed for a certain period of time". If the session is completed, it is understood

that the background guide is no longer visible after that "certain period of time".

With regards to claim 22, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14 and 21. The claimed specified amount of time being five

seconds is met by the "certain period of time" discussed above in the rejection to

claim 9. The fact that the claim particularly points out 5 seconds as the elapsed time

for closure of the background guide is not a patentable distinction above the Young

reference.

With regards to claim 23, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The claimed upcoming program information being displayed in

the bottom right hand corner of the monitor display screen is met by Figure 26A,

wherein Young shows the information being displayed in the bottom left and the

bottom right of the display screen.

With regards to claim 24, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with

regards to claim 14. The claimed upcoming program information being displayed in

a rectangular shaped box on the monitor display screen is met by Figure 26A,

wherein Young shows the information being displayed in a rectangular shaped box

on the display screen.

With regards to claim 25, the system for displaying upcoming program

information is met as follows: The claimed display, is met by the TV Monitor 210 of

Figure 22A. The claimed input configured to receive user input is met by the

Infrared Remote Driver 214 and Remote Control 212 of Figure 22A. The claimed

processor coupled to the display and the input, wherein the processor can display a

broadcast of a program, receive upcoming program information, overlay a display of

at least one portion of the broadcast with at least one portion of the upcoming

program information is met by the CPU 228 of Figure 22A, which is coupled to the

aforementioned TV Monitor 210 and Infrared Remote Driver 214/Remote Control

212. The processor's ability to display a broadcast of a program is met by line 216

of Figure 22A, which serves to direct the cable broadcast to the TV Monitor. The

processor's ability to receive upcoming program information is met by the VBI

Decoder 222 and Schedule Memory 232, which both serve to decode and store the

upcoming program information. The processor's ability to overlay the upcoming

information onto the display of the television broadcast is met by column 1, lines 27-31, wherein Young teaches the processor's ability to overlay information onto the television broadcast.

With regards to claim 26, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 25. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information being displayed for a specified amount of time, the amount of time being preprogrammed by a user, such that the upcoming program information is no longer displayed after expiration of the specified amount of time is met by Young, column 22, lines 44-47, wherein he discloses that "a session is completed if the background guide has not been accessed for a certain period of time". If the session is completed, it is understood that the background guide is no longer visible after that "certain period of time".

With regards to claim 27, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 25. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information being selected from the group consisting of a source, such that the upcoming program information being displayed is for a user- specified source, and a time, such that the upcoming program information being displayed is for a user-specified time period is met by column 24, lines 28-32 and lines 49-54. Young teaches that the user can specify a time period for display of upcoming information on the background guide. Young further teaches that the user can define favorite channels and define a list of channels (the source) that he/she wants displayed on the background guide.

With regards to claim 28, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 25. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information including a starting and ending time of the upcoming program is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses and shows a starting and ending time for each program.

With regards to claim 29, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 25. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information including a title, the title corresponding to an upcoming program to be shown on the same channel is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses that the upcoming listings can be scrolled based on the current channel.

With regards to claim 30, the method for displaying upcoming program information is met as follows: The claimed step of displaying a broadcast program, is met by line 216 of Figure 22A, which serves to direct the cable broadcast to the TV Monitor 210. The claimed step of receiving upcoming program information is met by the VBI Decoder 222 and Schedule Memory 232, which both serve to decode and store the upcoming program information. The claimed step of displaying at least one portion of the upcoming program information over the displayed broadcast is met by column 1, lines 27-31, wherein Young teaches the ability to overlay information onto the television broadcast.

With regards to claim 31, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 30. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information being displayed for a specified amount of time, the amount of time being preprogrammed

by a user, such that the upcoming program information is no longer displayed after expiration of the specified amount of time is met by Young, column 22, lines 44-47, wherein he discloses that "a session is completed if the background guide has not been accessed for a certain period of time". If the session is completed, it is understood that the background guide is no longer visible after that "certain period of time".

With regards to claim 32, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 30. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information being selected from the group consisting of a source, such that the upcoming program information being displayed is for a user- specified source, and a time, such that the upcoming program information being displayed is for a user-specified time period is met by column 24, lines 28-32 and lines 49-54. Young teaches that the user can specify a time period for display of upcoming information on the background guide. Young further teaches that the user can define favorite channels and define a list of channels (the source) that he/she wants displayed on the background guide.

With regards to claim 33, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 30. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information including a starting and ending time of the upcoming program is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses and shows a starting and ending time for each program.

With regards to claim 34, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 30. The claimed portion of the upcoming program information

including a title, the title corresponding to an upcoming program to be shown on the same channel is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses that the upcoming listings can be scrolled based on the current channel.

With regards to claim 35, the display for indicating upcoming program information is met as follows: The claimed first image comprising an upcoming program information display options menu, including a plurality of upcoming program information display options, at least one option being selected by a user is met by the background guide setup menu (Figure 25). The background guide setup menu serves to allow the user to set options for the display of background guide information on the screen (column 22, lines 32-49). The claimed input configured to receive user input is met by the Infrared Remote Driver 214 and Remote Control 212 of Figure 22A. The claimed second image comprising the upcoming program information determined by the selected options is met by the background guide screen of Figure 26A. As is discussed in column 22, line 32 – column 24, line 54, the background guide serves to allow the user to view (according to background guide setup options) information for upcoming channels and times.

With regards to claim 36, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 35. The claimed upcoming program information determined by the selected options including a title, which corresponds to an upcoming program to be shown on the same channel is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses that the upcoming listings can be scrolled based on the current channel.

With regards to claim 37, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 35. The claimed upcoming program information determined by the selected options further including presenting a starting and ending time of the upcoming program is met by Figure 26A and column 24, lines 20-32, wherein Young discloses and shows a starting and ending time for each program.

With regards to claim 38, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 35. The claimed upcoming program information display options including a source option, such that the user can specify a source for which the upcoming program information is desired, and a time option, such that the user can specify a time period for which the upcoming program information is desired is met by column 24, lines 28-32 and lines 49-54. Young teaches that the user can specify a time period for display of upcoming information on the background guide. Young further teaches that the user can define favorite channels and define a list of channels (the source) that he/she wants displayed on the background guide.

With regards to claim 39, Young teaches all of that which is discussed above with regards to claim 35. The claimed second image being displayed for a specified amount of time, the amount of time being preprogrammed by a user, such that the upcoming program information is no longer displayed after expiration of the specified amount of time is met by Young, column 22, lines 44-47, wherein he discloses that "a session is completed if the background guide has not been accessed for a certain period of time". If the session is completed, it is understood that the background guide is no longer visible after that "certain period of time".

Conclusion

11.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure:

Florin et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,583,560) discloses an apparatus and method for

interfacing audio-visual equipment using a software program and an IPG type

interface.

LaJoie et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,850,218) discloses a system for an interactive

program guide (IPG) for selection and viewing of special channels and

information based on user input and setup.

Miller at al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,585,866) discloses an EPG schedule system, which

uses user input to configure display.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Michael R Shannon whose telephone number is 703-

305-6955. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00, alternate Friday's

off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 703-305-4795. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael R Shannon
Examiner
Art Unit 2614

Michael R Shannon
August 25, 2004

JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600